

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. An adjustable inclining treadmill comprising:  
a frame;  
an inclining tread base linked to the frame; and  
a pivoting hood assembly coupled to the frame, the pivoting hood assembly being adapted to incline the tread base to a grade of at least 20 percent.
2. The adjustable inclining treadmill of claim 1, wherein the pivoting hood assembly is adapted to incline the tread base to at an angle of at least 30 degrees.
3. The adjustable inclining treadmill of claim 1, wherein the pivoting hood assembly is adapted to incline the tread base to a grade of at least 40 percent.
4. The adjustable inclining treadmill of claim 1, wherein the pivoting hood assembly is adapted to incline the tread base to a grade of at least 50 percent.
5. The adjustable inclining treadmill of claim 1, wherein the pivoting hood assembly is positioned at an angle to greater than 40 degrees when the tread base is at its greatest grade of incline.
6. The adjustable inclining treadmill of claim 1, wherein pivoting of the pivoting hood assembly causes inclining of the inclining tread base.

7. The adjustable inclining treadmill of claim 1, wherein the pivoting hood assembly includes a lift motor and a channel bracket assembly.

8. The adjustable inclining treadmill of claim 7, wherein the pivoting hood assembly is pivotally coupled to the frame at a hood assembly pivot.

9. The adjustable inclining treadmill of claim 8, wherein the lift motor engages the channel bracket assembly at a point distal to the hood assembly pivot.

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10. An adjustable inclining treadmill comprising:  
a frame;  
an inclining tread base linked to the frame; and  
a pivoting hood assembly coupled to the frame, the pivoting hood assembly being positioned at an angle greater than about 40 degrees when the tread base is at its greatest degree of incline.

11. The adjustable inclining treadmill of claim 10, wherein the pivoting hood assembly is positioned of about 45 degrees or greater when the tread base is at its greatest degree of incline.

12. The adjustable inclining treadmill of claim 10, wherein the pivoting hood assembly is positioned at an angle greater than 55 degrees when the tread base is at its greatest degree of incline.

13. The adjustable inclining treadmill of claim 10, wherein the pivoting hood assembly is positioned at an angle greater than 65 degrees when the tread base is at its greatest degree of incline.

14. The adjustable inclining treadmill of claim 10, wherein the pivoting hood assembly is positioned at an angle greater than 75 degrees when the tread base is at its greatest degree of incline.

15. The adjustable inclining treadmill of claim 10, wherein the pivoting hood assembly is pivotally coupled to an upright member of the frame.

16. The adjustable inclining treadmill of claim 10, wherein the inclining tread base is pivotally coupled to the pivoting hood assembly.

17. The adjustable inclining treadmill of claim 10, wherein pivoting of the pivoting hood assembly results in pivoting of the inclining treadbase.

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18. An adjustable inclining treadmill comprising:
- a frame;
  - an inclining tread base linked to the frame; and
  - a pivoting hood assembly comprising:
    - a lift motor;
    - a pivoting plate pivotally coupled to the frame;
    - a channel bracket assembly coupled to the pivoting plate, wherein the lift motor engages the channel bracket assembly to pivot the pivoting hood assembly; and
    - an inclining tread base pivotally coupled to the channel bracket assembly such that pivoting of the pivoting hood assembly causes inclination of the inclining tread base.

19. The inclining treadmill of claim 18, wherein the lift motor engages the channel bracket assembly at a point distal to the hood assembly pivot to pivot the pivoting hood assembly.

20. The inclining treadmill of claim 18, wherein the lift motor pulls against the channel bracket assembly to increase the degree of inclination of the tread base.

21. The inclining treadmill of claim 18, wherein the lift motor pushes against the channel bracket assembly to decrease the degree of inclination of the tread base.

22. The inclining treadmill of claim 19, wherein the lift motor comprises a lead screw lift motor.

23. The inclining treadmill of claim 22, wherein a lead screw of the lift motor engages a channel bracket of the channel bracket assembly.

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24. An adjustable inclining treadmill comprising:  
a frame;  
an inclining tread base linked to the frame; and  
a pivoting hood assembly coupled to the frame, the pivoting hood assembly having a hood assembly pivot and a tread base pivot.

25. The adjustable inclining treadmill of claim 24, wherein the pivoting hood assembly is coupled to the frame only at the hood assembly pivot and is coupled to the inclining tread base only at the tread base pivot.

26. The adjustable inclining treadmill of claim 23, wherein the frame includes an upright member.

27. The adjustable inclining treadmill of claim 23, wherein the pivoting hood assembly is coupled to the upright member of the frame.

28. An adjustable inclining treadmill comprising:  
  
a frame;  
  
an inclining tread base linked to the frame; and  
  
a pivoting hood assembly coupled to the frame such that the pivoting hood assembly can be positioned at an angle greater than about 40 degrees.

29. The adjustable treadmill of claim 28, wherein the pivoting hood assembly is positioned at an angle of greater than about 40 degrees when the tread base is at its greatest degree of incline.

30. The adjustable treadmill of claim 28, wherein the pivoting hood assembly can be positioned at an angle of about 45 degrees or greater.

31. The adjustable treadmill of claim 28, where the pivoting hood assembly can be positioned at an angle of about 55 degrees or greater.

32. The adjustable treadmill of claim 28, where the pivoting hood assembly can be positioned at an angle of about 65 degrees or greater.

33. The adjustable treadmill of claim 28, where the pivoting hood assembly can be positioned at an angle of about 75 degrees or greater.



34. An adjustable inclining treadmill comprising:

- a frame, having an upright frame member;
- an inclining tread base linked to the frame; and
- a pivoting hood assembly being coupled to the upright frame member,

the pivoting hood assembly being pivotally coupled between the upright frame member and the inclining tread base.